



Editorial

Golden Opportunity

It was with great pleasure that I accepted the role as Technical Editor of *Gold Bulletin*. I know, from reading previous issues of *Gold Bulletin*, what a wonderful job David Thompson has done and hope that I am able to continue with the high standard that he has set.

When first approached by Chris Corti, I asked myself how much do I know about gold chemistry and all its various uses? Gold and I have had a long association with each other. The obvious - persuading my husband to part with significant amounts of money for attractive pieces of jewellery. The not so obvious - my first employment, after leaving University in 1986, with Johnson Matthey at their research centre. The first project I undertook involved the use of colloidal gold (or nanoparticles as they now seem to be known). Colloidal Gold has been in use as a decorative material, called 'Purple of Cassius' since the 18th century. The industrial manufacture of the product involves the reduction of chloroauric acid in situ by a Sn(II) to Sn(IV) reaction. The resultant precipitate is a mixture of colloidal gold particles supported on a tin (IV) hydroxide gel. Further processing and various additions of silver results in glass enamels that are used for the pink/purple shades on your expensive china and porcelain.

My research task was to prepare stable gold and silver hydrosols of different sizes and flocculate them onto a range of oxide supports for further processing. You can imagine my delight at reading and investigating the recent chemistry appearing in the literature today. I am now convinced that

"colloidal gold's time has come" and that colloidal gold and its alloys will play an important part in the future industrial applications of gold.

Some of the papers in this and recent issues have, however, made me realise that there is so much more to gold chemistry than I ever imagined possible and here is a golden opportunity (sorry!) for me to get excited about gold all over again.

I would like to end my first editorial by extending a very warm invitation to all our readers to share your knowledge of gold science and its applications with *Gold Bulletin* and to submit scientific and review articles. We look forward to reading them all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Harris". The script is cursive and fluid.

Patricia M. Harris
Technical Editor